

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-21, and 75-107 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 19 has been amended. All other pending claims are unchanged. Reconsideration of the subject application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Applicants' attorney discussed the rejections of claims 19 and 104 with Examiner Dougherty in a telephone interview on September 14, 2004. The substance of the interview is summarized below.

As discussed in the interview, to further distinguish U.S. Patent No. 4,140,936 to Bullock, claim 19 has been amended to specify a "a continuous, first major layer" and "a continuous, second major layer" (added language underlined). It was agreed upon in the interview that claim 19, as amended, would be patentable over Bullock.

As discussed and agreed upon in the interview, claim 104 is patentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,522,389 to Mason because this reference does not teach or suggest, for example, "a piezoelectric unit being operable as an actuator to compress the fluid whenever an electric field is applied to the piezoelectric unit," as recited in claim 104.


Dependent claims 20 and 105-107 are allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims, and for the respective additional features recited therein.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejections of claims 19, 20, and 104-107 should be withdrawn.

The present application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any further issues remain concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned to discuss such matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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